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behind the nucleus was remarkably bright and condensed towards its axis.

March 5.—Comet bright but still much marred by moonlight; no perceptible change either to naked vision or in telescope.

Approximate Positions.

Graham's Town M.T. d h m	R.A. h m	N.P.D. ° ′
Feb. 24 15 15	R.A. 19 48	N.P.D. 138 35
27 16 15	,, 20 11	,, 133 45
March 3 16 0	,, 19 22	,, 125 50

March 19.—The comet is still visible, and was last seen by myself on the 17th, when it appeared to be still equal to a 4th mag. star, and when viewed in the 9-inch Calver, a very bright object, with a tail of highly condensed matter which bore well a power of 100. The nucleus appeared to be slightly diffused on the preceding border. The tail was 6° in length before Venus-rise on March 13, when I obtained a favourable view of the comet; but after Venus-rise it could not be traced further than 2½° or 3° beyond the head. When viewed in the reflector the tail could be seen as sharply defined on both borders to about 2°, where it suddenly narrowed to about half its width, the northern half only being continued with sharp outline on its exterior, but rugged on the interior.

Approximate Positions.

d h m	R.A. h m s	N.P.D. ° ′
March 8 16 0	R.A. 20 45	N.P.D. 118 30
9 16 0	,, 20 47 30	,, 117 30
12 16 20	,, 20 59	,, 112 30
14 16 0	,, 21 4 30	,, 109 40
16 16 30	,, 21 11 30	,, 106 30

Sextant Observations of Comet a, 1888.

By Captain James Clarke, R.N.R., s.s. *Olbers.*

(*Communicated by Captain H. Toynbee.*)

1888, February 26, 4 A.M., apparent time at ship in latitude 30° 1′ S., longitude 48° 30′ W. Greenwich date, February 25, $19^{h}\ 18^{m}\ 10^{s}$.

			° ′
Comet bearing from	Antares	S.E. by S.	46 11
,, ,,	α Centauri	East	46 48
,, ,,	Altair	S.W. by S.	55·15

Length of tail from nucleus, 4°.

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Observations of Comet a, 1888. By John Tebbutt.

(*Communicated by A. A. Common.*)

Intelligence of the discovery of this comet at the Cape of Good Hope reached my observatory about noon on February 23, but the weather, which up to that time had been fine, suddenly became cloudy. I have observed the comet with the 8-inch equatorial and filar micrometer on every clear morning since that date. The nucleus is small and brilliant, and admits of precise observation. In consequence of the Moon's presence the comet is not a conspicuous object to the unassisted eye, its tail being only two or three degrees in length. By the mail now going out I forward you the following five positions. They depend on well-determined stars, but unfortunately in some instances the comparison intervals were large. The positions for the first two dates are corrected for refraction, but this correction, which cannot in any case exceed a second of arc, has not yet been applied to the differential results for the remaining dates.

1888.	Windsor Mean Time.	Comet's Apparent R.A.	Comet's Apparent N.P.D.	No. of Comps.	Comp. Star.
	d h m s	h m s	° ′ ″		
Feb.	27 16 35 34	20 2 10·75	...	17	1
	27 16 35 34	20 2 10·93	134 20 28·2	17	2
	28 16 34 30	20 6 53·64	132 52 32·8	4	3
March	2 17 9 9	20 20 13·76	128 21 26·4	3	4
	3 16 42 37	20 24 18·10	126 52 7·3	5	5
	3 16 42 37	20 24 17·92	126 52 6·9	5	6
	4 16 35 54	20 28 18·55	125 21 6·3	5	7

Mean Places of the Comparison Stars for 1888·0, *with the Reductions.*

Star.	R.A.	N.P.D.	Reductions.		Authority for Mean Place.
	h m s	° ′ ″	s	″	
1	20 1 38·82	134 14 28·6	−2·00	−6·0	Stone, 10799.
2	20 2 18·07	134 13 12·6	−2·01	−6·0	Stone, 10803.
3	20 4 41·78	133 6 30·5	−1·95	−5·7	Stone, 10820.
4	20 27 37·71	128 28 18·5	−1·85	−3·6	Stone, 10965.
5	20 9 6·17	126 47 39·2	−1·69	−4·5	Stone, 10840.
6	20 14 25·88	126 57 42·9	−1·72	−4·2	Cordoba Zone, 22, 55.
7	20 16 33·76	125 29 15·3	−1·67	−3·8	Stone, 10897.

Windsor, N. S. Wales:
1888, *March* 6.

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